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ANSARUDDIN

March-April 2009 Vol.6 No.2 **Aman, Shahadat** 1388



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Majlis Ansarullah Midlands Region

Sadar Majlis Ansarullah UK, Mr Waleed Ahmad also attended the Ijtema





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ANSARULLAH PLEDGE

اَشْهَدُ اَنْ لَّا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهٗ لَا شَرِيْكَ لَهٗ وَ اَشْهَدُ اَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهٗ وَرَسُوْلُهٗ

I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah. He is One and has no partner and I bear witness that Muhammad ﷺ is His Servant and Messenger.

I solemnly pledge that I shall endeavour throughout my life for the propagation and consolidation of Ahmadiyyat in Islam and shall stand guard in defence of the institution of Khilafat. I shall not hesitate to offer any sacrifice in this regard. Moreover, I shall exhort my children to always remain dedicated and devoted to Khilafat. Insha Allah.

Content

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Editorial

Approximately one hundred years ago, with Divine inspiration, The Promised Messiah declared that within the next three hundred years the world would see a great change. Not only Muslims, but Christians as well, would totally condemn and reject the false doctrine that Jesus Christ is still alive and will descend from the heavens. Then the world would believe in only one Prophet, i.e. Mohammad (SAW) and Islam would be the only religion to flourish.

Within one hundred years, we are able to witness the signs that this prophecy is being fulfilled. There is no doubt that at present, the Christian world is mighty with regards to worldly power and dominance over a major part of the world. On the other hand however, there is also no doubt that a silent storm is rocking the very foundations of Christianity. The majority of Christians have lost their faith and interest in their religion and have discarded the various doctrines and abandoned the practicing their religion. They openly profess that various hollow doctrines of Christianity have no attraction for them and do not appeal their intellect. Christianity is devoid of spirituality and does not offer anything to satisfy their spiritual needs. Many have lost their faith in religion and have abandoned it altogether. There are some on the other hand, who due to a natural desire, are in search of truth, and they study other religions, particularly Islam. Most of them, when they study and learn the beautiful teachings of Islam, are attracted to it as a rational and logical faith and are converted.

Although the number of people who are drawn towards Islam and convert to it, is not great at present, this trend is extremely alarming for the Christian world. Warning bells have already started ringing in their corridors. The Christian world is facing a serious dilemma. On the one hand they have false and hollow doctrines which do not have any appeal for modern and intellectual people, and on the hand, have no moral force to stop the exodus of young Christians turning towards Islam. They have come up with only one solution and that it is to launch attacks on Islam from every side and with full force using multi-agency sources. In a bid to detract people from Islam, they aim to create an immense hatred towards the religion and present it as the most disgusting and dangerous to world peace. The caricatures of the Prophet of Islam, documentaries and films are all part of this heinous design against Islam. A large number of books have been written to defame Islam. This is done sometimes in the name of freedom of speech and liberty of expression and at times referred as 'modern research' on Islam. These books are full of baseless accusations containing contrived materials without reference to the context. These are the same accusations, which in fact, enemies of Islam have many times before, levelled against the Qur'an and the Holy Prophet (pbuh) of Islam (and satisfactory answers have been given in the past).

Don Richardson, an American, has recently written a similar book entitled "The secrets of the Qur'an", in which he has repeated the old allegations. The only difference is that he has done his best to excite the Jews and western political leaders to join forces to condemn Islam so that no one dares to convert to it.

The renaissance of Islam is the basic purpose of creation of the Jamaat Ahmadiyya. The Ahmadiyya Community has stood, from the very beginning, in a highly organised manner to defend Islam and the Holy Prophet (pbuh). Imam Jamaat Ahmadiyya, in his Friday sermons during 2006, has directed the Community to stand firm in defence of Islam with renewed enthusiasm and fervour. Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih the V (aba) stressed upon three points. The first one is to enhance our preaching efforts and convey the beautiful teachings of Islam to the non-Muslims and also provide them with books written on the life of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) so that they learn themselves the true teachings of Islam and practice of the Holy Prophet.

Secondly, members of the community should write articles in defence of Islam and the Holy Prophet (pbuh) and have those published in various journals. The third direction is that the community should make plans to guide our youngsters to become educated in Journalism so that they can influence the media through their professional work. Parents of waqfeen-e-Nou must follow this guideline. Last but not the least, Huzur emphasized the importance of prayers.

May Allah grant us strength and wisdom to follow these guidelines and may we be counted among those fortunate people who stand in defence of the Unity of God and strive to exalt the sacred name of the Holy Prophet of Islam (pbuh), Ameen.

Dars-ul-Quran

هُوَالَّذِیْ بَعَثَ فِی الْاُمِّیّٖنَ رَسُوْلًا مِّنْهُمْ یَتْلُوْا عَلَیْهِمْ اٰیٰتِهٖ وَیُزَکِّیْهِمْ وَیُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْکِتٰبَ وَالْحِکْمَةَ وَاِنْ کَانُوْا مِنْ قَبْلُ لَفِیْ ضَلٰلٍ مُّبِیْنٍ ○ وَّ اٰخَرِیْنَ مِنْهُمْ لَمَّا یَلْحَقُوْا بِهِمْ وَهُوَالْعَزِیْزُ الْحَکِیْمُ ○

"He it is who has raised among the unlettered people a Messenger from among themselves who recites unto them His Signs, and purifies them, and teaches them the Book and Wisdom, although they were before that in manifest error ,

And lie will raise him among others of them who have not yet joined them. He is the Mighty, the Wise". (Al-Jumu'ah, 62:3-4).

The Divine mission of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) consisted in the performance of the fourfold sacred duty referred to in the verse under comment. This was the noble task which was to be entrusted to that great Prophet for whose appearance among the unlettered Arabs the Patriarch Abraham had prayed several thousand years in advance, when in company with his son Ishmael, he was raising the foundations of the Ka'aba.

In fact no Reformer can truly succeed in his mission unless he prepares, by his noble and purifying example, a community of sincere, devoted and righteous followers, whom he teaches the ideals and principles of his message and their philosophy, significance and importance, and then sends them out to preach that message to other people. The training he imparts to them refines their intellect, and the philosophy of his teaching engenders in them certainty of faith, and his noble example creates in them purity of heart and refines character. It is to this basic fact of religion that the verse under comment refers.

The verse signifies that the message of the Holy Prophet (pboh) was meant not only for the Arabs among whom he was raised but for all non-Arabs as well, and not only for his contemporaries but also for the coming generations until the end of time. Or the meaning may be that the Holy Prophet (pboh) will be raised among another people who have not yet joined his immediate followers.

The reference in the verse and in a well-known saying of the Holy Prophet (pboh) is to the Second Advent of the Holy Prophet (pboh) in the person of the Promised Messiah in the Latter Days. Says Abu Hurairah: "One day we were sitting with the Holy Prophet when Sura Jumu'ah was revealed. I asked the Holy Prophet, "Who are the people to whom the words And among others from among them who have not yet joined them, refer. Salman the Persian was sitting among us. Upon my repeatedly asking him the same question, the Prophet put his hand on Salman and said, "If faith were to go up to the pleiades, a man from these would surely find it" (Bukhari).

This hadith shows that the verse applies to a man of Persian descent. Now the Promised Messiah, the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement, was of Persian descent. Other sayings of the Holy Prophet (pboh) speak of the appearance of the Messiah at a time when there would remain nothing of the Holy Qur'an but its words and of Islam but its name i.e., the true spirit of Islamic teaching will be lost. (Baihaqui). Thus the Holy Quran and the Hadith both seem to agree that the present verse refers to the Second Advent of the Holy Prophet in the person of the Promised Messiah.

The verse refers to the good fortune of the people among whom the Holy Prophet (pboh) will be raised for the second time in the person of one of his followers- the Promised Messiah.

Dars-ul-Hadith

On the Appearance of the Messiah and Mahdi

The Holy Prophet, (pbuh), is reported to have said:

'What will be your condition when the Son of Mary will appear among you and he will be your Imam from among yourselves? " (Bukhari, Kitabul Anbiya)
"There will come a time when nothing will remain of Islam except its name only, and nothing will remain of the Holy Qur 'an except its inscription. Their mosques will be splendidly furnished but destitute of guidance. Their divines will be the worst people under the Heaven and strife will issue from then and avert to them. " (Mishkat Kitabul Ilm Fatha uthalith, p. 38).
"/ give you the glad tidings of the Mahdi who will be raised by my Urnmah at the time of the decadent people. He will fill the earth with equity and justice. "(Musnad Ahmad)

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah narrates: "We were sitting with the Holy Prophet (peace be on him) when Surah Jumu'ah was revealed to him. When he recited the verse: And he will appear among others from among them who have not yet joined them (62:4), a man asked: O Messenger of Allah, who are these people? But Huzur did not answer him. The man repeated his question three times. Hadhrat Salman Farsi was sitting amongst us. The Holy Prophet (pbuh) put his hand on his shoulder and said: "Even if faith will ascend to the Pleiades, some men from among his people will bring it back to earth. " (Bukhari, Kitabul Tafsir Surah Al-Jumu'ah wa Muslim).

Hadhrat Abdillah ibn Umar narrates that the Holy Prophet (pbuh) said: *"The Mahdi will appear from a village namedKad'a.* (Jawahirul Israr, p. 56, Baharul Anwar, Vol 13, p. 23).

The Holy Prophet, (pbuh), is reported to have said:

"God Almighty will show signs in his attestation and like Companions of the Holy Prophet in Badr, the Mahdi will be granted 313 illustrious companions whose names will be recorded in an authoritative book. " (Jawaharul Israr, p. 56, Hadhrat Sheikh Ali bin Hamza bin Ali-ul-malakul Tusi, Irshadati Faridi, Vol 3, p. 70).

"For our Mahdi, there are appointed two signs which have never been manifested for any other claimant since the creation of the Heavens and the earth. They are that at his advent there shall occur an eclipse of the moon on the first of its appointed nights, and an eclipse of the sun on the middle of its appointed days, and both will occur in the same month of Ramadhan. "
(Sunan Dar Qutni, vol 2, p. 65, Bab Safatus Salatul Khusuf).

"/ swear on Him Who holds my life in His hands that the Son of Mary shall surely appear amongst you as a just Arbiter and will break the cross and annihilate the swine. " (Bukhari)

"When you hear the advent of Mahdi, it is then enjoined on you to enter his Bai 'at even if you have to walk on snow by crawling and creeping to reach him, for indeed he is Khalifatiillah Mahdi. " (Kanzul Ummal).
"The one who recognises the Promised Mahdi, he should convey my Salams to him. " (Durr-i-Manthur, Vol 2, p 445).

"He who dies in a condition that he has not recognised the Imam of the Age dies a death of ignorance" (Musnad Ahmad bin Hanbal, Vol 4, p. 96).

Writings of the Promised Messiah (as)

Necessity of accepting the Messiah and Mahdi

When God Almighty, observing the condition of the world and finding the earth filled with every type of disobedience, sin and misguidance, appointed me for the propagation of the truth and the reform of the people, then I, in obedience to this Divine command, sent forth the call through written and oral announcements that I was the person who was to arrive at the beginning of the century for revival of the faith.

My purpose was to re-establish the faith which had disappeared from the earth and to pull mankind towards reform and righteousness and truthfulness through the power and strength that God had bestowed upon me, and through the magnetic power of His hand. It was also my purpose to correct their doctrinal errors and to reform their conduct.

A few years thereafter, it was made quite clear to me through Divine revelation that the Messiah, whose advent among the Muslims had been promised from the beginning, and the Mahdi whose advent had been Divinely decreed at the time of the decline of Islam and the spread of error, and who was to be guided directly by God, and who was to invite people to partake of the heavenly banquet, and whose coming had been foretold by the Holy Prophet, peace be on him, thirteen hundred years in advance, was myself.

Divine revelation to this effect was vouchsafed to me so clearly and so continuously that it left no room for doubt. It was replete with grand prophecies that were fulfilled clearly as bright day. Its frequency and number and miraculous power compelled me to affirm that it comprehended the words of the One God, without associate, Whose Word is the Holy Qur'an. (Tadhkiratush Shahadatain, pp 1-2).

In order to win the pleasure of Allah, I hereby inform you all of the important fact that Almighty God has, at the beginning of this 14lh century, appointed me from Himself for the revival and support of the true faith of Islam. It is my function in this disturbed age to proclaim the excellences of the Holy Qur'an and the greatness of the Holy Prophet, peace be on him. It is also my function to repel all enemies of Islam who are attacking it, by means of the light and blessings and the miracles and inner knowledge that have been bestowed upon me [Barakatud Dua, p. 24].

In this age, the Holy Prophet, peace be on him, has been reviled in abusive writings to a degree to which no other prophet has been reviled in any age. In truth in this age Satan, with the help of all his progeny, is tiying his utmost to destroy Islam. As doubtless this is the last battle between truth and falsehood, the age demanded the advent of a Divinely commissioned one for its reform. That one is the Promised Messiah, who is present among you. [Chashmah Maarifat, p. 86].

Had my claim been put forward on my own, you would have been free to reject me, but if God's Holy Prophet bears witness of me in his prophecies and God manifests His Signs in my support, then do not wrong yourselves by rejecting me. Say not that you are Muslims and have no need of accepting any Messiah.

I tell you truly that he who accepts me accepts him who had prophesied about me thirteen hundred years in advance, and had indicated the time of my appearance, and had specified my function; and he who rejects me rejects him who had commanded that I should be accepted (Ayamus Solh, p. 93).

SOME OF THE PROPHECIES MADE BY THE PROMISED MESSIAH (as)

(As illustrated by Hazrat Al-Haaj Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad (rt), (Extracts from "Dawat-ul-Amir") Translator as Akram Dar

Whereas there are countless prophecies made by the Promised Messiah (as), I shall only mention two very prominent ones which were fulfilled in his own life time. The first one relates to the horrendous death of the great Arya Samaj leader of the time, Pundit Lekh Ram and the second prophecy relates to the destruction of the American Evangelist, Alexander Dowie.

It so happened that late in the 19th Century, a new Hindu sect called the "Ayra Samaj" came into existence and seeing the low condition of Islam at that time, this sect concocted a bold plan to convert the Muslims to the Hindu religion. To accomplish this, their writers began to publish the most scurrilous attacks on Islam, the most daring of these leaders and writers was one called Lekh Ram. When the Promised Messiah (as) became aware of his onslaughts, he tried to explain to this Arya leader the truth of Islam, but to no effect. Lekh Ram obstinately stuck to his anti Islamis ideas and schemes and produced the most distorted translations of the Quranic passages, which was impossible even to read them. He held the most foul views about the Holy Prophet (saw) and the Holy Quran. Therefore controversy with him began to increase and he even went further in his vile abuse of the Holy Prophet (saw) and also ridiculed Hazrat Mirza Sahib (as). He also became very impatient for the appearance of a heavenly sign. In consequence, Hazrat Mirza Saheb (as) prayed to God for a miracle and learnt that the end of this man was not far away!.

Before publishing this prophecy, Hazrat Mirza Saheb (as) offered to withhold the publication of the prophecy if Lekh Ram had any objection, to which he replied that he had nothing to fear. The initial revelations received were general and no time limit had been laid for his end. But Lekh Ram insisted on a time limit. Hazrat Mirza Saheb (as), therefore, withheld publication of the prophecy until he had more knowledge from God. Finally the day arrived when he learnt that Lekh Ram was due to meet with a final calamity within six years from 20/2/1893.

Hazrat Mirza Saheb (as) published this prophecy and added to it an Arabic revelation relating to Lekh Ram….."A miserable half dead cow, nothing awaits for it but disgrace and destruction".

Hazrat Mirza Saheb (as), addressing all religious parties, wrote: "If within six years from 20/2/1983, this man does not meet with punishment from God, then let everybody think that I am not from God". Some time later, on the basis of further revelations, he said, "….And God has given me the glad tidings that I will witness a day of Eid, which will be close to the Eid". He went on…."And among the graces of God which I have received is that He has accepted my prayers relating to Lekh Ram and that he will soon meet his destruction. This man was foul in his abuse of the Holy Prophet (saw). I therefore prayed fervently against him…..So my God informed that this man will die within six years".

A little later, Hazrat Mirza Saheb (as) added further details to the prophecy, which were published as a note inside the title cover of his book "Barakat ul-Dua". It was headed "A further prophecy about Lekh Ram of Peshawar". He said…."Today, 2/4/1893 AD (Ramadhan 14, 1310 A H), early in the morning, in semi- conciousness, I saw myself sitting along with some friends in a large house. Suddenly I saw a man in front of me, looking very fearful with blood-shot eyes. He seemed a strange creature of a strange character. He did not appear to be a human being I thought…..but a dreadful and dangerous Angel. He struck terror in those who saw him. As I looked at him, he asked, "Where is Lekh Ram?". Then he named another person and asked me about his whereabouts also. Instantly I understood that this person had been appointed by God to punish Lekh Ram and this other man".

The prophecies relating to Lekh Ram put together foretold:

(a) That Lekh Ram will meet with a fatal calamity.

(b) That this calamity will take effect within six years.

(c) That it will be on a day close to Eid, just before or just after.
(d) That Lekh Ram will meet the same fate as that of the Calf of Samri, i.e. dismemberment, death and dispersion of his ashes into a river.
(e) That this fatal process will be carried out by a person with blood-shot red eyes.
(f) That Lekh Ram will be a victim of the sword of Muhammad.

Now these details are so clear that nobody can have any doubt about their meaning. Five years after the publication of this prophecy, people started to ridicule the Promised Messiah (as), because, according to them, nothing untoward had happened to Lekh Ram. They wondered…Could Mirza Sahib still be true?. However, the next Eid-ul-Fitr, in the afternoon, an unknown person stabbed Lekh Ram in the stomach with a sharp dagger. This happened on Saturday; Lekh Ram died on Sunday. The word of God manifested its truth in all its grim details. The prophecy had laid down a six year limit and he met his end within this time limit. The prophecy said this fatal event would occur on a day close to Eid, that this day will prove an Eid for the believers. The prophecy also said that he would meet his end at the hands of a fearful red looking person; that is exactly what happened. Lekh Ram was to be a victim of the sword of Muhammad, so he died of a stab wound. It also foretold that he would meet a fate similar to the fate of the Calf of Samri,which was dismembered on a Saturday, burnt to ashes and then dispersed into a river. This is exactly what happened to Lekh Ram. As he was a Hindu, he was cremated and his ashes were thrown into a river.

The story story of Lekh Ram is that once a man with blood shot eyes had visited him and who wished to be converted from Islam to Hinduism. People tried to dissuade Lekh Ram from entertaining him, but he did not take any heed. This man therefore became Lekh Ram's trusted companion. After this man had familiarised himself with the Hindu religion and its beliefs, he asked to be converted, to which Lekh Ram appointed Saturday as the day of his conversion (and his destruction!). It so happened that Lekh Ram was busy writing and suddenly asked this man for some book. This man, taking advantage of the situation, pretended to reach Lekh Ram with the required book and suddenly slipped a dagger into his stomach, turning the dagger round and round so as to cut the entrails thoroughly. This man then suddenly disappeared, this being the statement of Lekh Ram's family. Lekh Ram was on the upper floor of the house; near the gate, on the ground floor, were many men, but no one saw the murderer come down and escape!.Lekh Ram's mother and wife were certain he was still in the house, but on searching the whole house, no one was found. Where did he disappear?. Into the Earth or on to the sky?. Lekh Ram died in great pain on Sunday. It was on a Sunday that the Promised Messiah (as) had seen in a vision this red looking fearsome person who had asked for Lekh Ram!.

Lekh Ram's fatal end was a glorious sign of the truth of the Promised Messiah (as) and a divine warning for those who would heap with abuse on the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw).

Now I shall relate the sad and solitary end of the American Impostor, who claimed to be the Messiah of the time. This prophecy was and still is a sign for the Christians and the people in the West.

Alexander Dowie was well known in America. Although Australian by birth, he had acquired American citizenship. It was in 1892 that he started preaching and claimed spiritual powers of healing and many became his followers. In 1901 he claimed to be the fore runner of the second coming of Christ, just as Elijah was a fore runner of his first coming. The second appearance of Christ was then a much discussed subject, the signs laid down for it in the scriptures had appeared and people interested in religion were eagerly waiting. His publication to the claim further attracted more people, thereby increasing his popularity immensely. He then bought some land and founded a town called Zion and declared that Christ would descend in that town. Many rich people, out of eagerness to have the first view of Christ, paid large sums of money for land to build houses in that town. Dowie began to control and in effect rule that town as an uncrowned king and soon his followers numbered more than 100,000. He sent preachers to different Christian countries. As he was full of hatred of Islam, he used foul language against it and in 1902, he published a prophecy that unless Muslims of the world became Christians, they would meet with death and destruction.

Hazrat Mirza Sahib (as), heard of this vile claim and in response wrote a leaflet in September 1902, in which he enumerated the beauties of Islam and said it was quite unnecessary for Dowie to predict and proclaim the destruction of Muslims in the world. Hazrat Mirza Saheb (as) claimed that he had been sent by God as the Promised Messiah. So Dowie could enter into a prayer contest with him and the result of this contest would enable all people to determine the truth. This pamphlet was widely distributed in Europe and America. From December 1902 to the end of 1903, newspapers in Europe and America kept commenting on this leaflet and about forty of them were sent to Qadian. Judging from the extent of publicity, it would be fair to say that about two to two and a half million people were made aware of the proposed prayer contest. However, Dowie did not write in reply to this leaflet, but went on praying for the defeat and destruction of Islam. He also renewed his attacks and on 14/2/1903, he wrote in his prayer: "I pray to God that Islam should soon disappear from the world. O God, accept this prayer of mine. O God destroy Islam". Yet again on 5/8/1903 he wrote: "The black spot on the mantle of man (Islam) will meet its end at the hands of Zion".

Hazrat Mirza Saheb (as) saw that Dowie was in no mood to retreat from his hostility; so he issued another leaflet some time in 1903. It was called "Prophecies about Dowie and Piggot". Piggot was a pretender of England. In this leaflet, Hazoor wrote that he had been sent by God to re-establish belief in the oneness of God, to put an end to all attempts to associate others with this one God; that he had a sign to show to America. The sign was that if Dowie should enter into a prayer duel with him and should he (Dowie) accept the challenge, directly or indirectly, then in Mirza Sahib's life time Dowie would leave the world in great pain and misery. Hazoor went on to say that Dowie had been invited to enter this prayer contest before, but had not replied. He was now allowed seven months more in which to publish his reply. The leaflet ended by saying: "Be sure, calamity is due to befall Dowie's Zion". In the end, without waiting for Dowie's reply, he prayed: "God, ordain that the falsehood of Piggot and Dowie may soon become potent to people".

This leaflet was also published in the West on a very large scale and some newspapers in Europe and America commented upon it. For example," Glasgow Herald" of Britain and "New York Commercial Advertiser" of America published summaries of it. Millions of people were made aware of it. When this leaflet was published, Dowie's star was at its zenith and his followers were on the increase. They were so rich that every new year Dowie received presents worth a thousand dollars from them. He even owned many industrial establishments and his bank balance amounted to about $20,000,000!. His staff of servants was larger than that of the richest in the land. He enjoyed excellent health, which he boasted was his special miracle. He also claimed to possess miraculous powers of healing just by the touch of his hand. He in fact had money, health, followers, influence and everything in abundance.

On the publication of the second leaflet by Hazoor (as), people began to ask Dowie as to why he did not reply to the Indian Messiah?. Dowie replied contemptuously: "There is a Muhammadan Messiah in India who has repeatedly written to me that Jesus Christ lies buried in Kashmir, and people ask why I do not answer him. Do you imagine that I shall reply to such gnats and flies?. If I were to put down my foot on them I could crush out their lives…..I give them a chance to fly away and live". Alas, foolishly enough Dowie, who had so far kept out of any contest with Hazoor (as), now indirectly entered the contest, although he continued to deny it. He forgot that Hazrat Mirza Saheb (as) had written clearly that even if Dowie entered the contest indirectly, he would still leave the world in great pain and misery, while Hazoor would still be alive. Dowie described Hazoor as a worm and boasted he could trample him with his foot. Dowie therefore had entered the contest and invited the wrath of God. As time passed, his vanity and ostentation increased. He again described Hazoor as the "foolish Muhammadan Messiah" and said, "If I am not a messenger of God on this earth, then no one is". In December 1903, he openly entered the contest and declared that an angel had told him that he would be victorious over his enemies. This declaration was a counter-prophecy – a prophecy of the death of Hazrat Mirza Sahib (as). This spiritual contest now became patent and open. After this last declaration, Hazoor wrote nothing and in accordance with the Quranic injunction – "And wait as they also wait", he waited for the Judgement of God.

The grip of God got hold of the feet under which Dowie wanted to trample down the Messiah of God. His feet became impaired and could not even rest them on the ground. Dowie had an attack of paralysis, but recovered after a few days. Two months later, on 19th December, he had a second attack which prostrated him. He was disabled completely and left his work to his secretary, and himself went in search of health to an island supposed to possess a curative climate for paralysis. But the anger and wrath of God followed him even there. Dowie had described the true Messiah as a "worm", and now he himself was to be reduced to the status of a worm!. The miraculous powers which he used to boast began to desert him. Once he had left home, his followers began to wonder why he, who had powers to heal others, could not heal himself?. And he"did not even have to pray…..but only a touch of his hand would suffice". Why did he fall ill at all?. His followers began a search of his rooms which had been inaccessible until now. They found bottles of wine. His wife and son declared that he drank heavily in secret though he had prohibited his own followers from doing so. He had prohibited even the use of tobacco. His wife declared that she had been loyal and faithful to him even during the days of his poverty, but she was infuriated to learn that he was married to a rich old woman, which he declared to be lawful. In saying this, he was legalising bigamy. His wife produced letters which this woman had written in reply to Dowie's. Obviously his followers were infuriated and they decided to check the accounts of his organisations. It was found that Dowie had misappropriated about Rupees 5,000,000 ($1,500,000). It also transpired that he had given presents worth more than Rupees 100,000 to young girls in the town.

Once these disclosures were out in the open, his leading followers decided to depose Dowie and sent him a telegram which said: "Unfortunately the organisation seriously objects to your expensive habits, hypocrisy, misstatements, exaggerations and ill temper. Therefore, you are hereby deposed from your office". Dowie could not refute these charges. At last all his followers turned against him. As a last effort he wanted to address them and convert them again to his side. But when he alighted from the train, only a few followers came to receive him, and hardly anyone paying much attention. Therefore he turned to the law courts, but they gave no help in maintenance. On the other hand his paralysis had made him completely helpless, so much so that his negro servants had to carry him during these last days. They advised him to have proper treatment, but he did not agree. He knew he had been advising others against treatment, so how could he have any treatment himself?.

In the end, out of about 100,000 followers, only about 200 remained with him. He had failed in the law courts and his paralysis had advanced. He could not endure his mounting troubles and he lost balance of mind and became practically insane. In this miserable condition he appeared before some of his followers who saw the once robust, pompous fore-runner of Christ, swallowed all over. He said his name was Jerry! He had been battling with satan the night before! In the battle his general had been killed! He himself had received injuries! Those who heard this scattered speech knew that he had gone mad. The last of his followers left him. The words of Hazrat Mirza Sahib (as) were fulfilled. Mirza Sahib (as) had said that before his eyes Dowie would leave this mortal world "in great pain and misery". On 8/3/1907, Dowie died, abandoned and disgraced. When he died, he had only four men with him and his total assets amounted to about 30 Rupees.

One cannot imagine a worse picture of pain and misery. Dowie's death was an abject lesson, a Sign for the people of the West. Many newspapers declared that the prophecy of Hazrat Mirza Sahib (as) had been fulfilled. Some of the quotations are:

"Ahmad and his adherents may be pardoned for taking some credit for the accuracy with which the prophecy was fulfilled a few months ago". (Danville Gazette, 7/6/1907).

"The Qadian man predicted that if Dowie accepted the challenge, "he shall leave the world before my eyes with great sorrow and torment". If Dowie declined, the Mirza said, "the end would only be deferred; death awaited him just the same, and calamity will soon overtake Zion". That was the grand prophecy: Zion should fall and Dowie die before Ahmad. It appeared to be a risky step for the Promised Messiah to defy the restored Elijah to an

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LOVE OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH (as) FOR THE HOLY QURAN

SPEECH BY SENATOR DR. IFTIKHAR AHMAD AYAZ, OBE JALSA SALANA U.K.,JULY 2006

The verse of the Holy Quran from Sura Al-Furqan (Chapter 25) holds a prophecy about the latter days. The prophecy was:

And the Messenger will say, 'O my Lord, my people indeed treated this Quran as a thing to be discarded.'

Our Master Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) had given the glad tidings of the advent of The Promised Messiah and the Blessed Guided One, who would hold the principal mission of exposing the superiority and excellences of the Holy Quran and its dissemination and promulgation.

The Holy Prophet (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, 'When faith will rise to the Pleiades, then a man from Persia will bring it back'. In some other narrations it is mentioned that knowledge of the Holy Quran will vanish and the Holy Quran will be discarded.

That exactly was the scenario before the advent of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him), and in accordance with the saying of the Holy Prophet (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) that nothing will remain of the Holy Quran except its name, the Holy Quran was no more than a piece of decoration kept on the shelf and a number if ill-fated customs and rituals were associate with it. Perilously, both by virtue of meaning and by virtue of practice, it had been completely forsaken.

It was the time of the fulfilment of that great prophecy of the Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet of Islam (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and Allah The Exalted raised that true and devoted lover of the Holy Quran, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, The Promised Messiah and the Guided One, who with fathomless depth of love and devotion submerged into the waters of the Holy Quran and secured such precious and priceless gems which were the need of the time.

The Promised Messiah was constantly devoted to the cause and study of the Holy Quran. His unflinching loyalty and devotion to it and the intense feelings with which he expressed his love of the Holy Quran leaves one bewildered, perplexed and breathless.

His knowledge of and reliance on the Holy Quran as a potent source of guidance was only as a result of fervent prayers in solitude, through which he addressed his Lord and Creator.

Once, it was discovered that whilst studying and reflecting upon the Holy Quran the Promised Messiah was intently addressing God prayerfully-

'O my Creator, this is Your message and I can appreciate it only if You teach me' (Hiyat en Nabi).

Every fibre of his being and every thought which dominated his heart was his intense love for the Word of God and every interest of his life was immersed in this.

When compiling his masterpieces of writings he would walk up and down his room with the Holy Quran in his hands, reading and meditating upon it. He always had a copy of the Holy Quran with him which he used to recite and mark at relevant places. It could be said without exaggeration that he had read it thousands of times. Unlike other writers, scholars or speakers who would refer to relevant literature when preparing their works, the Promised Messiah invariably referred to the Holy Quran. That is why in all his writings one cannot help noticing Quranic verses being profusely quoted. In short, the entire literature produced by him is a treasure of exhaustive commentaries of the Holy Quran. The knowledge of the Holy Quran he exposed and the way he inspired and prepared his followers to cling to it and make it the order of their lives, is an astonishing achievement, the like of which the world has never witnessed.

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) states in one of his writings:

'The light of the Holy Quran has penetrated to my heart and I could not have acquired it by any other

means. And Allah is my witness that if there had been no Quran I would have found no delight in life'.

(Aina-e-Kamalat-e-Islam, Ruhani Khazain, vol. 5, pp. 545-546).

In this context, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

'The presentation of the Holy Quran as understood by the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), is the most attractive way of preaching and the strongest possible way' (Majlis Shoora Pedrobad, Spain, Sept. 1982).

Not only did the Promised Messiah read, study and meditate upon the Holy Quran but he advised his followers to do likewise.

He also loved to listen to the recitation of the Holy Quran. Once, he went for a walk when someone told him that the son-in-law of Haji Habib-ur-Rehman Sahib, amongst the party, recited the Holy Quran in a melodious voice. The Promised Messiah sat down by the roadside and requested him to do so which he willingly did. While listening to the recitation, tears rolled down his cheeks.

His unparalleled love and devotion to the Holy Quran also found vivid expression at the Conference of Great Religions when his monumental work 'Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam' was read before a mammoth audience. This was a masterful exposition of the five assigned themes of the Conference from the Holy Quran by the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him).

Those around him felt that the entire existence of the Promised Messiah was for the cause of the Holy Quran.

An old lady by the name of Hayat Bibi, daughter of Late Fazal Deen Sahib, narrates that her father was very close to the Promised Messiah. He used to collect and deliver food to Huzur. He said that Huzur would go inside, close the door and sit in the Courtyard reading the Holy Quran. Sometimes he would go into lengthy prostrations and cry so much that the ground would become soaked by his tears.

The Promised Messiah says-

'It is not possible that a person should believe fully in God Almighty except through the Holy Quran. For this characteristic is special to the Holy Quran that by following it perfectly all obstructions that exist between man and God are removed. God, Who is hidden from the entire world, is seen only through the Holy Quran'

(Chashma-e-Marifat, Ruhani Khazain, vol. 23, pp. 271-272).

And by God! we are a witness that so many of his companions and so many in Jamaat Ahmadiyya today, by Allah's Grace, have experienced God in their lives through their devotion and dedication to the Holy Quran. This is the revolution which the Promised Messiah created through his love for the Holy Quran. And this distinguishes him as the most outstanding unique lover and servant of the Holy Quran in this age, beyond compare.

The son of the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Sahibzada Mirza Bashir Ahmad (may Allah be pleased with him), narrates that the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) was most of the time absorbed in studies and he particularly concentrated on the Holy Quran.

Those who saw him found him reading the Holy Quran with such attention and devotion that he would be completely engrossed in its meaning.

It is said that a non-Ahmadi tax-collector, Munshi Adbul Wahid from Patiala, was a frequent visitor to Qadian to see Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Murtaza Sahib, father of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). He knew the Promised Messiah from an early age. He testifies that when the Promised Messiah was about the age of 14 or 15 years, he spent almost his entire day reading the Holy Quran and writing notes on it in the margins. The father of the Promised Messiah commented that he is not concerned about anything else and spends his day reading the Holy Quran in the mosque (Review of Religions, Urdu, Qadian, January 1942, p. 4).

Once, the Promised Messiah was travelling in a Palanquin from Qadian to Batala. The journey took about five hours. Just as he left Qadian, the Promised Messiah opened his pocket edition of the Holy Quran and started reading the first Chapter, Sura Al-Fatiha and for five hours he was completely absorbed in the study of this short Chapter as if it was a vast deep ocean in which he was diving to great depths in search of the pearls of love and mercy of his eternal beloved- the Holy Quran (Seerat-ul-Mahdi, vol. II).

Deep and true love for the Holy Quran and by the blessings of devotedly following it, the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) was granted intimate

knowledge of the Holy Quran by Allah.

The fact is that the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) was sent for the service of the Holy Quran. He himself states:

'God Almighty has raised me so that I expose to the world those buried treasures of the Holy Quran and purify and cleanse them of the vicious muck of objections heaped upon them by the opponents of Islam. Allah's torrential passion for the care of the honour of the Holy Quran at present is overwhelming and Allah is determined to sanctify and safeguard the honour of the Holy Quran against the tarnishing objections of the wretched enemy' (Malfoozat vol. I, p. 38).

After the Promised Messiah's divine commission, the Holy Quran furthermore became the order of his life. God Almighty revealed to him-

'Every kind of goodness and blessing can only be found in the Holy Quran'.

And he abundantly benefited from that goodness and blessings throughout his life. He dived deep into the ocean of the wisdom and knowledge of the Holy Quran and surfaced such pearls and jewels which left the world dumbfounded and stunned. It was the intensity of his love that he presented the Holy Quran before the world as a perfect and living scripture.

In his grand publication Braheen-i-Ahmadiyya, he splendidly established forever the verity, veracity, truth and perfection of the Holy Quran by irrefutable arguments and convinced the world that it was the only scripture that would live till the Day of Judgement. He called upon followers of all other religions to contest the superiority of the Holy Quran regarding any matter on the condition that their claims and their arguments must be based on their religious scriptures. It was such a valiant challenge that it reduced all other faiths to silence. No one has ever accepted that challenge to this day, and no one will ever have the courage to do so till the Day of Judgement. That is the legacy he left behind for the Ahmadiyya Jamaat, and in fact for the entire humanity. To ensure that it lasts till the Day of Judgement in its pristine purity, Allah graced him with the re-establishment of the system of divine succession (Khilafat). Today, we are blessed with the fifth chapter of Khilafat and we find the gems of the Holy Quran offered to us by our beloved Khalifa (may Allah support him with his mighty help), to reform and enrich our lives and enjoy the real, everlasting prosperity.

We have at our disposal, over eighty books of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) which unfold for the world the authenticity, truth and wisdom of the Holy Quran. It is a legacy of immeasurable treasure provided to us to publicise the Holy Quran all over the world and resolutely respond to any objection against it.

The Promised Messiah was immersed in the love of the Holy Quran on account of its unique message and uncountable beauties. But the founding sentiment of his love for the Holy Quran was in reality the love of God, as he says in an Urdu couplet:

'The beauties of the Holy Quran are conspicuously obvious, but the real cause of my love for it O my heavenly Master, is that it has come from Thee, and my heart remains restless to kiss and circuit it over and over again.

It is indeed the love of Allah from which sprouts the love of the holy Quran.

To the Promised Messiah, the Holy Quran was the remedy to all ills, whether physical or spiritual.

Hazrat Dr. Mir Mohammad Ismail Sahib (may Allah be pleased with him) narrates that on the day when the Ambassador from Rome was visiting Qadian; after Maghrib prayer, when Huzur was sitting on a seat, he felt pressure in his head so he lay down on a mat on the floor. The Companions moved in to press his head but Huzur soon stopped them and when most of them had left, he requested Maulvi Adbul Karim Sahib (may Allah be pleased with him) to recite some portion of the Holy Quran. Maulvi Sahib compiled and continued to recite in a melodious voice until Huzur said that he felt better (Seerat-ul-Mahdi, Narration No. 459).

The Promised Messiah inundated mankind with the gushing rivers of the teachings and wisdom of the Holy Quran. He presented the Book of Allah as a living Book. He unveiled the real holy and radiant face of the Holy Quran by exposing the light of wisdom and knowledge granted to him by Allah. In all his publications and speeches, he vehemently proved by powerful reasoning that each and every letter and word of the Holy Quran is safeguarded and will be meticulously preserved from any sort of interpolations till the Day of Judgement.

Addressing the Jamaat, the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) states:

'I am repeatedly admonishing you that genuine love and obedience of the Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) turns a person into a man of miracles and the doors of the unseen are opened upon such a perfect soul' (Zameen-i-Anjam Atham, p.61).

How many outside the panel of Ahmadiyyat today can dare to make such a claim and produce even one person who by the blessings of the Holy Quran has become a man of miracles and the doors of the unseen have been opened upon him? This is an exclusive honour for those who in the footsteps of the Promised Messiah have moulded their lives in the template of the Holy Quran.

The Promised Messiah further states:

'Allah the Exalted, by raising me at the head of the fourteenth century, commissioned me to revive and rejuvenate the vigorous faith of Islam. It is my mission that during these tumultuous times I manifest the beauties and the greatness of both the Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet of Islam (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and with all the light and blessings and miracles and divine knowledge Allah has given me, defend Islam against the attacks of all its enemies' (Barakatud Dua, p. 36).

This remains the primary mission of Jamaat Ahmadiyya today. There are no people on this earth today beside the Ahmadiyya Jamaat who are ever ready to lay their lives for the honour and sanctity of the Holy Quran. Indeed, it is the Ahmadis who have been slain and tortured and locked up in the terrifying dark cells for expressing their love and devotion to the Holy Quran. They have been made victims of blasphemy by those who have totally discarded the Holy Quran and their example, practice and behaviour, tarnishes the very name of the Holy Quran, and who, by writing misconceived commentaries of the Holy Quran, continue to strengthen the hands of the opponents of Islam and are in fact themselves a disgrace to Islam. Whatever they do, let them know that each and every Ahmadi, man and women, old and young, is ever ready to offer every sacrifice for the honour of the Holy Quran. And it is through this Jamaat and only this Jamaat that the Holy Quran will become the order of this world soon. Insha'Allah.

With the blessings of the knowledge bestowed upon him by Allah the Exalted, the Promised Messiah inundated mankind with the gushing rivers of the teachings and wisdom of the Holy Quran. He presented the Book of Allah as a living Book. He unveiled the real holy and radiant face of the Holy Quran by exposing the light of wisdom and knowledge granted to him by Allah. In all his publications and speeches, he vehemently proved by powerful reasoning that each and every letter and word of the Holy Quran is safeguarded and will be meticulously preserved from any sort of interpolations till the Day of Judgement.

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) says-

'I hereby assure the audience that God, on whom depends the salvation and everlasting prosperity of man, cannot be found other than through following the Holy Quran; Understand with conviction that as is not possible for us to see without eyes, listen without ears or speak without a tongue, similarly it is not possible to set our eyes on that Beloved without the Holy Quran' (Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam).

Stating the excellences and the greatness of the Holy Quran, the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) says-

'The Holy Quran has expressed its eloquence and richness by its truth, wisdom and encompassing all the rightful needs of humanity, and in an amazing manner has absorbed the truths of all faiths. There is no truth which is not contained in the Holy Quran. The beauty of it is that not even a single word in the Holy Quran is excessive and there is nothing that is irrelevant. Its luminous style is beyond imagination. Its boundless richness is absolutely fabulous, reflected in the beauty of its arrangement, succinctly covering mountains of knowledge from the beginning to the end'.

As such, the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) firmly relied on the Holy Quran to retaliate and defend Islam against the attacks of the opponents. Whichever Part, or verse of the Holy Quran was targeted by the opponents, the Promised Messiah responded promptly in a smashing manner, completely crushing the enemies will to move any further. Such an awe inspiring way of protecting the grandeur of the Holy Quran manifests the infinite passion and love of the Holy Quran with which he was inebriated.

His love was not limited to expressions of sentiments; he brought forth the miraculous power of the Holy Quran in such a forceful manner that the entire world of religion was spellbound.

A Christian Priest, Imaduddin, wrote a book by the name 'Zain-ul-Aqwal' specifically criticising and vilifying the Holy Quran. The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) in reply, wrote the book 'Noor-ul-Haq', in which he profusely revealed the depth of knowledge and distinguished teachings of the Holy Quran. There are not a few, but several such instances found in his publications, where he proved the falsehood of untrue religions from the Holy Quran. Accordingly, he exhorted every believer to always base the claims of faith and support reasoning on the Holy Quran.

Those who love and take that passion to its ultimate heights always eulogize and portray their beloved in various ways and sing in praise of its beauties and attributes. In the same tone, the Promised Messiah revealed glimpses of the intensity of his love for the Holy Quran in various ways.

For instance, Hazrat Yusuf (peace be upon him) is said to be exceptionally handsome, but in the sight of the Promised Messiah the Holy Quran is far superior in its attractiveness, beauty, charm and elegance. He says-

'It is said that the beauty of Yusuf was very attractive, but the Holy Quran is unique in its quality and charm; You have heard that Yusuf fell into a gorge but this Book rescues those who are in the gorge and that is its claim'.

And he says-

'The elegance and beauty of the Holy Quran is the soul of every Muslim. Crescent is the moon of others; Our moon is the Holy Quran'.

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) writes-

'I always felt my heart inclined towards the subtleties, intricacies and vastness of the knowledge of the Holy Quran and I was enamoured by its fathomless beauty. I have seen that it gives me the knowledge and so many different kinds of fruit of wisdom which will never run out and neither shall I ever be deprived of those. It is my conviction that the Holy Quran strengthens faith and enriches belief. By God! It is a priceless, matchless pearl. Its inner self is light and its outer self is light and its each and every word is light. It is a spiritual garden whose clustered fruits are within easy reach and through which streams flow. Every fruit of good fortune is found in it and every torch is lit from it. I was magnetised towards it and it is firmly lodged in my heart. It has nurtured me like a baby is nurtured in its mother's womb. It has an astonishing impact upon my heart. Its beauty has charmed me. I have seen in a vision that all honours and blessings are irrigated by the waters of the Holy Quran which is a surging ocean of the elixir of life. He who drinks from it comes to life; Indeed, he brings others to life. By God! Its face is more beautiful than everything else. It is a face which has been moulded in the template of beauty and crowned with splendour'

(Aina-e-Kamalat-e-Islam, Ruhani Khazain, Vol. 5, pp.545-546).

Regarding the authenticity of the Holy Quran, the Promised Messiah said, the Holy Quran is superior to Hadith and is a divine determiner to check the validity and authenticity of a Hadith. However, he further stated that 'It is incumbent upon our Jamaat that if a Hadith, that is a saying of the Holy Prophet (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is not against the Holy Quran and practice, then whatever its rank, it should be accepted and followed in practice and given priority over man-made jurisprudence'. (Al-Haq Ludhiana Debate, 1891, Review Debate Chakralvi, p. 506).

Before the advent of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), several Muslim sects believed that some verses of the Holy Quran had been abrogated and were not worth practice anymore. They were there merely for recitation and it was not incumbent to follow them in practice. The incandescent fervent love of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) for the Holy Quran could not stand this about abrogation of the verses of the Holy Quran and with utmost conviction he proclaimed that not even a dot of the Holy Quran has ever been repealed and it will never be repealed. He was that ardent and genuine lover of the Holy Quran who was bent upon protecting the Holy Quran and strived in announcing that today only those will be honoured in Heaven who will honour the Holy Quran.

His doctrine is that the Holy Quran abrogated all previous scriptures and laws, but itself it can never be abrogated as it is the Word of God. The earth and the heaven can vanish, but the Law, the Commandments and any verse of the Holy Quran can never be altered. He stated that if someone

believes in abrogation, he is in our sight excluded from the group of believers and is a non-believer heretic.

The Promised Messiah states-

'The Holy Quran is that authentic, pure and final word of God in which man has absolutely no involvement, not even to the extent of a dot or stroke. In all its contexts, in all its words and meaning, it is from Allah the Exalted in totality, and no sect of Muslims has any excuse not to accept it as such. Its each and every word has an excellent order of continuation and succession. It is an immutable revelation- the letters of which have been counted and because of being a miracle in itself, it will always remain safe from any kind of change or interpolation'.

Hence, the Promised Messiah, with his profound sentiments of love for the Holy Quran eradicated and eliminated all misconceptions about the Holy Quran, and restated its irrevocable honour.

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) not only himself gained mastery over the knowledge of the Holy Quran, but also provided assured guidance to others to understand the Holy Quran and undoubtedly it was an adorable service to the Holy Quran.

There was a time when people thought that no one can either understand the Holy Quran, nor follow it in practice, but he unleashed and scattered before the world all the secrets and gems of its understanding.

The Promised Messiah says-

'The one who as a devoted follower of the Holy Quran genuinely pursues and perseveres in pure love and enhances it to limits, is graced as a shadow to manifest the attributes of Allah the Exalted. All that is the result of that ferocious power and impact that we witness in the discourse of the Holy Quran. Such an overwhelming effect cannot be found in any other book which is considered revealed by any other faith'.

In each and every book of the Promised Messiah, there are glimpses of the love of the Holy Quran in one way or another. His versified writings in Urdu, Arabic and Persian, equally demonstrate the depth of his boundless passion and love for the Holy Quran in such a touching manner that there is no example of its kind anywhere else.

He says- 'The light of the Holy Quran is a light more clear and bright by far than any other kind of light! And Holy indeed is He, Who is the source of this veritable river of radiance! O Lord! Does Thy Word constitute only a book? Or is it a Universe in itself? For, whatsoever was indispensable for mankind, for progress of the human mind, we find amply provided in this marvellous scripture!'

Similarly, in an Arabic verse, the Promised Messiah says-

'A holy book which is the embodiment of all distinctions. It causes its faithful to drink cups of knowledge and never stops providing more. We have observed in it, manifest signs of guidance and we have found in it wisdom which saves from destruction and blesses with prudence'.

To express the beauty, the glow, the enticement and captivation of the beloved, the lovers correlate it with the sun and the moon. But the Promised Messiah beautifully expresses his innermost sentiments for his beloved, the Holy Quran, in a Persian couplet when he says-

'The eye that has not accessed light from the Holy Quran,

By God! It will never be relieved of spiritual blindness all its life.

I cannot compare this light with the light of the sun because I can see that hundreds of Sun are encircling the Holy Quran'.

The Promised Messiah's attachment and fondness of the Holy Quran was limitless. He says-

'Ay ye those who read Ummul Kitab, that is Sura Al-Fatiha; Now watch this sun with my eyes. Ponder upon the supplication of Al-Fatiha again and again. It manifests the reality of it all.'

Further he says-

'The light that is emanated by the Holy Quran exceeds that of a thousand Sun.'

Addressing the Jamaat, the Promised Messiah exhorts-

'You should study this Holy Scripture with the utmost attention and deepest deliberation and cherish it with love. You should love it as you have never loved anything else. Indeed, God has conveyed to me: "All good lies in the Quran". All kinds of good is to be found in it and this is the truth. Unfortunate indeed are those who give to other

things over it. The Holy Quran is the fountainhead of all salvation, for all betterment and success. There is not a single spiritual need which has not been met for you in this Holy Book. It is the Holy Quran that, on the Day of Judgment, will testify the truth or falsehood of your faith. Appreciate therefore the value of blessings bestowed upon you. It is a precious blessing and a great treasure. Without the Holy Quran, the whole world would have been no better than a dirty clot of half-formed flesh. Indeed, it is a book compared to which all other sources of guidance amount to nothing' (Noah's Ark, p.36-37).

During the time of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), a journalist once visited Qadian and he was amazed to see the earnestness and fervour of everyone for the Holy Quran. He wrote-

'The genuine and true love for the Holy Quran that I saw in this Jamaat in Qadian, I have never seen anywhere else before. After morning prayer in the Mubarak Mosque, I went round for a walk and saw everyone without exception, young and old, sitting by a lantern reciting the Holy Quran. It was a truly captivating scene'. In a nutshell, he said that 'in Ahmadiyya Qadian I could see nothing but the Holy Quran everywhere'.

That is the atmosphere we need to revitalise and sustain in our lives everywhere. Our true love for the Promised Messiah can best be expressed through our love for the Holy Quran and the devotion of our life to its service.

The inestimable meritorious service of the Holy Quran inaugurated by the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) is being vehemently pursued and developed by Jamaat Ahmadiyya today. The Jamaat is restless to continue and accomplish the mission of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) to uphold the honour, purity and superiority of the Holy Quran and ensure that it reaches each and every household on this planet, and its dazzling light obliterates darkness for ever from the hearts of mankind.

Let me conclude with a heart rending Persian couplet of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him)-

'O ye ignorant, tighten up your belt for the service of the Holy Quran before you hear that so and so is dead.'

Let us take that message to our hearts. Let us live for the Holy Quran. There should be none amongst us who misses on the daily recitation of the Holy Quran. Each and every one of our household should remain perfumed with the fragrance of the Holy Quran. Let us put our heart and soul into its understanding. Let us follow its teachings faithfully in our lives so that we are accepted into the fold of the beloveds of Allah. Remember, that, that is the only way to the love of Allah. Let us be amongst those chosen to illuminate the entire world with the glow of the Holy Quran and bring lasting peace to the world through its teachings and lead humanity out of darkness into the ever shining light of Islam Ahmadiyyat. Allah enable us to do so. That then would indeed be an honourable tribute to the love of the Promised Messiah for the Holy Quran!

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endurance test, for the challenger was 15 years the older man of the two and probabilities in a land of plagues and famines were against him as a survivor, but he won out". (Truth Seeker, 15/6/1907).

It is quite clear that Hazrat Mirza Saheb (as) was much older than Dowie. Hence there were more chances for Dowie to survive than Hazrat Mirza Sahib (as).

"Dowie died with his hands fallen away from him and his fortune dwindled. He suffered from paralysis and insanity and died a miserable death, with Zion city torn and frayed by internal dissension. Mirza comes forward frankly and states that he has won his challenge". (Herald of Boston, 23/6/1907).

These few quotations from the American newspapers clearly show that the prophecy made an indelible impression not only on Christians but also on freethinking editors. They were so impressed by the grandeur of the prophecy that they felt constrained to write about it. They were not able to deny its truth or its importance. Whenever the sign of the death of Dowie is narrated before western audience, they will have before them the testimony of scores of newspapers, edited by fellow countrymen and fellow believers. Western audiences will be compelled to admit that Islam is the true religion and salvation is not to be found outside Islam. On being convinced, they will discard their prejudices and old beliefs and will enter Islam and declare their faith in the Holy Prophet (saw) and in his servant the Promised Messiah (as)

GLIMPESES OF LIVES OF SOME COMPANIONS OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH

Akhlaq Ahmad Anjum
(Translated into English by Malik Hameed Uddin Nasir)

The prophets of God are blessed with the kind of magnetism that invariably attracts the righteous and pious souls to them. The prophets are also a source of miracles and other kinds of paranormal phenomena. At times their followers achieve such a high spiritual status that they themselves experience such paranormal occurrences.

Our spiritual Master, the Holy Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) was the recipient of such spiritual magnetism in ample abundance, that brought about a revolution in the lives of his companions, in as much as that they divested themselves of the worldly pursuits and thus found God.

As prophesied in the Holy Quran, the Traditions of the Holy Prophet(pbuh) and The New Testament, the advent of such a person was predestined and that he would be a complete reflection of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), hence would have that power to cause a large number of pious souls and devotees to gather around him. The promised messiah was blessed with a large party of righteous companions only comparable to the companions of the Holy Prophet. Promised Messiah himself said, " He who finds me savours the company of the companions of The Prophet."

Moreover, he comments about his devotees saying, " Those entering into fraternity with me and professing allegiance to this divine association are completely imbued with devotion to God and me. It is only by the grace of Allah that I am blessed with such sincere and devout souls.
(Fateh-e Islam; Roohani Khaza-in; Vol: 3, Page 35)

The promised Messiah says, "I have a large party of people gathered around me who have spurned their worldly gains and devoted their lives to religious pursuit. They have left their places of abode, their friends and relations and have migrated to Qadian and have chosen a simple and meek life style here only because they wanted to live in my proximity. And there are some who have chosen to divorce their properties and native lands and have decided to spend the rest of their lives in Qadian. Allah has commended these saintly people in his revelations to me. They have forsaken the comforts of their worldly lives and chosen to live like Dervishes. They have learnt to reject the ways of good life as they became savvy to the sweet taste of their faith.
(Roohani Khaza-in; volume 15; pages: 625-626)

Each one of the companions of The Promised Messiah was a devout follower,
steeped in loyalty to him and to the religion of Islam. Their only mission was to achieve proximity to Allah. Due to lack of space, we will mention only few of them in the following pages:

HADHRAT
MAULVI HAKEEM NOORUDDIN (RA)

Hadhrat Maulvi Nooruddin Sahib swore the oath of allegiance, and surpassed everyone in sincerity and loyalty to The Promised Messiah. Wherever
The Promised Messiah made a mention of his brothers in faith; he always mentioned the name of Hadhrat Maulvi sahib with utmost endearment. The promised Messiah says," First of all I passionately wish to mention the name of my brother in Islam who is aptly called Nooruddin (Light of the religion). I have always watched wishfully the services he has carried out for the propagation of Islam with his own hard earned money. His passion to support the religion of Islam reminds us of the Divine power that attracts people to sacrifice their health, wealth and lives in the way of the religion. They are always ready to obey what God and their messenger (Prophet Muhammad) bids them to do. I know this for a fact that they would not hesitate to do any of my bidding even if it means to lay down their lives in the process, if only I beckon them to do so. I am certain that he (Hazrat Hakeem sahib) would be willing to risk everything just to stay in my proximity .The sincerity and loyalty is evident not only from his words but also from his actions.

He is more than ready to sacrifice even his means of sustenance of his own family just to serve me. More often than not his fervour and passion to serve the religion of Islam exceeds his financial capacity but he always eggs himself on. (Fateh-e0Islam, Roohani Khaza-in; Vol: 3; Pages: 34 –37)

The Promised Messiah says, " Allah has given me a loyal soul who is a jewel among my helpers, the essence of all those who are my friends in the matters of the religion. He is aptly named Nooruddin. He follows my biddings as the human pulse follows the heart- beat. He nearly slays himself to seek my pleasure."
(Aa-eena-kamalat-e-Islam; Arabic section) Herein the Promised Messiah has shed ample light on the salient features of the character of Hadhrat Maulvi sahib, i.e., his profound love and complete obedience to the Promised Messiah.

Hadhrat Dr. Mir Ismael sahib says, " All of the companions of the promised Messiah adored him in their own individual manner but the extreme to which Hadhrat Maulvi Nooruddin sahib revered him is unparalleled. Once I was staying with Hadhrat Maulvi Sahib when somebody commented that the Promised Messiah suggested to one of his acquaintances to give his daughter's hand in marriage to some Ahmadi, but the acquaintance declined the suggestion. At that juncture Hadhrat's daughter Amtul-Hayee who was a mere child at the time, passed by. Hadhrat Maulvi Sahib said with extreme passion, if Promised Messiah bids me to marry my daughter off to son of Nihali (a maid servant), I would do that without any hesitation. His comment was a reaffirmation of his reverence, adoration and devotion to the promised messiah.

By the grace of Allah the same young girl Amtul-Hayee was destined to become the daughter-in–law of the Promised Messiah, being wed to Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad, the great scion of the Promised Messiah who himself was a paradigm of grace and elegance of character.
(Hayat-e-Yayyaba; Page: 186-287)

Hakeem Mohammad Siddique of Miani relates. "Once Hadhrat Maulvi Nooruddin sahib was sitting in his clinic when somebody informed him that the Promised Messiah wanted to see him. On hearing this he leapt to his feet and started walking while doing his turban and dragging his shoes along with him trying not to be late in presenting himself to the Promised Messiah.

After that he was elected the Khalifa of Ahmadiyya community, he used to say," You know that there was a time when my beloved (Promised Messiah) used to live here and Nooruddin was crazy about him so much so that he would be oblivious of his own turban and his shoes."
(Hayat-e-Nooruddin; page: 108)

Before Maulvi Sahib settled in Qadian for good, he had started the construction of a grand mansion in Bhera with the intention of making it his permanent abode there. During this period he happened to travel to Lahore with the purpose of buying construction material there. While in Lahore he decided to go to Qadian to see the Promised Messiah in person. From Batala, he hired a horse-driven cart to take him to Qadian with the understanding that his stay in Qadian would only be a short one and that the same cart would bring him back to Batala. He met the promised Messiah there and before that he could ask his permission to leave, the promised Messiah said, "well! I presume that now you are not busy anymore (meaning that he was retired from his service in Kashmir). To which Maulvi Sahib replied, " Yes Hazoor, I am somehow free now". He then promptly paid off the cart driver saying that it was not appropriate to ask permission to leave today, maybe a few days later. Next day Hadhrat Promised Messiah said to Maulvi Sahib," You would not be comfortable here living alone in Qadian, you better arrange to bring one of your wives over here." He immediately wrote a letter asking one of his wives to join him in Qadian. After that his wife had arrived, he said to Maulvi Sahib, " I know that you are very fond of reading and you might wish to get your personal library books transferred here." Then on another occasion, the promised Messiah said to him," Please never think about going back to Bhera again."

Hadhrat Maulvi sahib says that he thought it was possible that he would not go back to Bhera again but was worried the idea may creep up in his mind. But he added, God works in mysterious ways and I never felt nostalgic about Bhera again. What a fine example of obedience, adoration and loyalty to the Promised Messiah! He was ever ready to execute

the biddings of the promised Messiah, never asking for a respite to wrap up his own chores. No wonder that the Promised Messiah once commented that Maulvi Nooruddin would readily jump into the river of raging fire if only I bid him to do so.

HADHRAT SUFI AHMAD JAN OF LUDHIANA

Hadhrat Sufi Ahmad Jan of Ludhiana was a pious soul, totally imbued with obedience, loyalty and adoration of The Promised Messiah. In fact he was an embodiment of loyalty. His adoration and devotion to the Promised Messiah dated back long time before the Promised Messiah's messianic claim. Later, by openly affirming the Promised Messiah's claim, he let himself be counted as one of his believers. After a chance reading of Promised Messiah's elegant book" Braheen-e-Ahmadiyya", he immediately realized his high spiritual status, and adoringly implored him in one of his famous couplets the translation of which is as "We, the afflicted, implore you to be our Messiah".

Hadhrat Sufi Sahib was a native of Delhi. During the disturbances of 1857, he migrated to Ludhiana along with his family. He was a saintly and pious soul with a captivating personality and a great God fearing contented person. He had a large number of pious souls of Sunni persuasion as his followers.

Though Sufi sahib died before the Promised Messiah began taking oath of allegiance from the faithful, but he adored The Promised Messiah despite the fact that some of his followers hinted that he was degrading his status by openly praising The Promised Messiah. He replied to them, saying, that he did not care about his status nor did he need any followers. After the publication of "Braheen-e-Ahmadiyya", if somebody approached him to join his order, he would tell them, now that the sun has risen all stars stand pale, go and follow Mirza Sahib (i.e. The Promised Messiah). *(Inaa-maat-e-Khudawand Karim: By Pir Iftikhar Ahmad; P-7)*

The Promised Messiah, grieved by his demise, wrote, "I am writing this with a heavy heart as one of my dear brother in Islam has expired, May Allah grant him a high station in the Hereafter. Inna Lillah-e-Wa – Inna Alaih-e-Raje-Oon. I feel very distraught at his sudden parting. Hajji Sufi Ahmad Jan was a spiritual leader of a large number of people".

Sufi Sahib died before The Promised Messiah had begun taking the oath of allegiance from the faithful. But Sufi sahib, by writing to Promised Messiah prior to his embarking on journey for hajj, wrote to him in such a meek and humble way, which is tantamount to his joining the Ahmadiyya community whole-heartedly. "His eldest son Hajji Iftikhar Ahmad, following his father's footsteps follows me very loyally", commented The Promised Messiah. In spite of his resigned style of life, he is always ready to serve the religion in any way he can. May Allah bless his mind and soul to tread solemnly on the way of the faith." *(Azala-e-Auham; Roohani Khaza-in; Vol: 3; Pages528-529)*

HADHRAT MAULVI ABDUL KARIM Of SIALKOT

Hadhrat Maulvi Abdulkarim Sahib was another pious soul who was steeped in the love of Islam and a loyal follower of the Promised Messiah. He was among the earliest of companions of the Promised Messiah. From very early age, he distanced himself from the worldly pursuits. After the initiation he chose to spend his time in the proximity of his Spiritual Master, The Promised Messiah. He served Islam till his last breath. The mutual respect and love between him and the Promised Messiah can be gauged by the fact that the Promised Messiah always used to have an audience with his companions in the mosque after Maghrib prayers. After the demise of Maulvi Abdul Karim the Promised Messiah stopped this routine of his, when asked about that, he replied that he was unable to bear the sight of Maulvi Abdul Karim's vacant seat.

As Maulvi Abdul Karim Sahib was introduced to the Promised Messiah by Maulvi Nooruddin Sahib, the Promised Messiah gave Hadhrat Maulvi Abdul Karim's hand in Maulvi Sahib's and then held both of their hands in his own and had Maulvi Abdul Karim repeat the words of Bai'at after him.

After the Bai'at, for a brief period of time, he was rather inclined to follow Sir Syed's materialistic approach in matters like revelations and miracles, but soon the close association with the Promised Messiah washed away all the doubts and misconceptions, and consequently he totally immersed himself in the obedience and devotion to the Promised Messiah so much so that Promised Messiah wrote, " he would believe me even if I told

him the most improbable. He was in complete mental conformity with me. He took it as blasphemous to disagree with me on any matter". (*Albadr; 12th January, 1906.)*

The Promised Messiah added, " He spent his whole life in blissful innocence untainted by worldly temptations. He even declined an offer of a job with handsome monthly remuneration of Rs. 200. He lived his life like the legendry "As-Haab-e-Suffa" in close proximity of the Promised Messiah. (Malfoozat; vol: 4)

He was not only a great scholar but also an excellent orator, a great writer and a born stentorian with tremendous fluency and simplicity of language with a powerful effective voice. He had the good fortune of reading out the Promised Messiah's celebrated lecture " Islami Asool Ki philosophy", to the audience on the occasion of "Jalsa-e-Mazahib" at Lahore in 1896. The Promised Messiah was foretold that his essay would come on top of all the Lectures. Till his death, he used to lead all the prayers and would even deliver Jumma sermons as well. When he died, at the age of 47, the promised Messiah composed a poem extolling his virtues and had it engraved on the headstone of his grave. The poem translates as under:

" I am lost for words to express his virtues. He defended Islam all his life. He was a champion of Islam. God Himself named him as the "Leader of Muslims". He was a Gnostic and an encyclopaedia of religion. Many a great people are born in this world

but very few would match his calibre. The death of such a close friend is really a great loss but one has to acquiesce to His Divine decree." *(Albadr; Vol: 1,No: 28,1905; From "Silsila Ahmadiyya")*

PIR MANZOOR AHMAD SAHIB

Elsewhere, in this essay, we have written about Sufi Ahmad Jan Sahib. It would be appropriate to mention about his prodigious son Pir Manzoor Ahmad Sahib. From his early childhood, he was nurtured in a very religious and pious atmosphere. Like a Gnostic he truly believed in God. He met the Promised Messiah in 1884 for the first time. He accepted Promised Messiah on 6th February 1892. The promised Messiah had his name recorded in the list of 313 of his most loyal companions. He learnt calligraphy and became a scribe only to devote his newly learnt skill to scribe the books of The Promised Messiah. For many of Promised Messiah's book, he was the scribe. These editions are not only very graceful but also are elegant pieces of Art of Calligraphy.

The Promised Messiah commented about his services saying, " As a matter of gratitude, it is incumbent on me to express the fact that Allah has blessed me with a good loyal soul, in the person of dear Mian Manzoor Ahmad the copyist, who has helped me greatly. Not only that he has a beautiful handwriting but also works for the sake of Islam without giving any consideration to monetary gains. He left his native town and has taken up residence here in Qadian. It is only by the grace of God that I have found a loyal person of my liking. Day or nigh, he is ready to carryout his services and toils untiringly only to seek pleasure of God. Consequently, in this spiritual battle, I am able to fire back at my religious adversaries with my regular publications." (Ishti-Harat, Ishtihar; 4th October 1899)

As a result of popularity of the primer "Yasser-Nul-Quraan", he had a regular income of hundreds of Rupees monthly. But his extent of monetary sacrifices was that he only kept a meagre sum of Rs. 30 for the upkeep of his family and spent rest of his income on the publication of Holy Quran. In one year alone he donated a grand sum of 10,000 Rupees for the service of Islam. He was very passionate about sacrificing for the religion and found solace in it. He himself led a very simple life almost indifferent to his own needs. He was such a saintly person that despite living in this world, he did not belong here.

MAULVI GHULAM RASOOL SAHIB RAJEKI

Maulvi Ghulam Rasool Sahib Rajeki was a saintly soul, divinely blessed with the capacity of experiencing true dreams and visions and was known for performing marvels. He was born in the Village of Rajeki. Prior to his birth his mother saw a dream that a lamp has been lit which filled the whole of her house with bright light. God Almighty fulfilled her dream by blessing her with a son whose attributive name was revealed to her by God as "Maulvi Ghulam Rasool, a pious soul who would perform miracles". He took Bai'at of the Promised Messiah in writing in 1897. He came to see

Promised Messiah in 1899 and renewed his Bai'at at the hands of The Promised Messiah. He even had the honour of messaging the feet of the Promised Messiah as a mark of respect and affection. God had blessed him with a deep and profound knowledge of matters of the religion. His speeches would captivate the audience.

In 1904, The Promised Messiah visited Sialkot. Day before the speech of The Promised Messiah, the food organisers feared that there might be some delay in serving the food to the visitors. To keep them busy, it was suggested that someone should make a speech. The lot fell to Hadhrat Maulvi Rajeki Sahib and he gave a detailed commentary of Surah Fatiha. At the end of his speech Hadhrat Maulvi Nooruddin Sahib (who later was chosen as the first Khalifa of The Promised Messiah) remarked approvingly, " I thought that there was only one Nooruddin but now I know that Mirza Sahib (The Promised Messiah) has produced may Nooruddins." *(Hayat-e-Qudsi; section: 2; Page: 33)*

A salient feature of his personality was his special relationship with God almighty. On several occasions he was blessed to have perceived God Almighty visually as well. He had the great fortune of seeing The Prophet Muhammad at least 30 times. On several occasions God Almighty revealed to him future events, which would come to pass later in exactly the same fashion as he was foretold. There are several incidents which stand as testimonies to the Divine acceptance of his supplications. He narrates, " Once I visited a village on my mission of preaching. The Mullahs and the head of the Village hatched a plan to have me killed. They convinced a gang of about 7 men to carry out their dastardly plan. But I outpaced them in my walk back to my town. Distraught by this event, I beseeched and prayed to God Almighty asking Him whether the miscreants would succeed in hampering my endeavours to spread His message. My gracious God spoke to me in a soothing and compassionate fashion, saying, " Who would dare stop you in your efforts to preach. On the 11th day from today I would send Allah Bukhsh, the Village head, to his grave." I spread this prediction among the villagers so much so that the residents of the surrounding villages also came to know about it. As decreed by God Almighty, the village head fell ill with pleurisy and dysentery and was dead exactly on the 11th day thereof. (Hayat-e-Qudsi; Vol: 1; Page: 23)

"The son of a certain person namely Dr. Syed Muhammad Hussein fell sick. His condition became precarious and doctors were apprehensive of his survival. The father of the boy realizing that his son was about to die, went about making preparations for his burial. The said doctor's wife beseeched me to pray for the boy's recovery. Following Hadhrat Hakeem Nooruddin Sahib's practice (The 1st Khalifa of The Promised Messiah) I went outdoors and gave some Sadqa (Propitiatory offering) to a destitute woman and requested her to accept it and to pray for the boy. Then I returned indoors and started to pray to God to have mercy on the poor boy and save him from his suffering. With tearful eyes and weeping heart, I recited Surah Fatiha in the 1st Rakat. By the grace of God, while I was still engaged in praying for the boy, he sat up on his bed and started talking as if he was never sick." *(Hayat-e-Qudsi; Volume: 5 ; Page :32)*

HADHRAT MAULVI SHER ALI SAHIB

Hadhrat Maulvi Sher Ali Sahib was a gem among the disciples of The Promised Messiah. He took the oath of allegiance in person at the hands of The Promised Messiah in 1897. He was a simple minded and a selfless person. Because of his simple disposition and pious nature, the Promised Messiah liked him very much. In his younger years he was quite a lean person but due to Promised Messiah's constant attention and prayers he soon started to enjoy a healthier life and was able to serve the cause of Islam for a long time.

On one occasion he was relaxing in the mosque, the Promised Messiah, held him by his arm and said affectionately, " I am looking forward to the day when Sher Ali's arm would double up in its girth". Then The Promised Messiah urged him to drink more milk everyday. Maulvi Sher Ali Sahib took his advice very seriously and started drinking milk regularly in huge quantities. Hadhrat Maulvi Sher Ali Sahib was very passionate about Promised Messiah and had extreme reverence for him. Hadhrat Allama Hafiz Mukhtar Ahmad Shah of ShahJahanpur narrates that once (on either Eid day or Friday) Hadhrat Maulvi Sher Ali Sahib came a little late and had to sit at the rear of the gathering where the audience would leave their shoes. Hadhrat Maulvi Sher Ali Sahib happened to find Promised

Messiah's shoes. He picked them up affectionately and started to wipe them with his turban cloth. What a display of extreme devotion and reverence!

At the completion of his education, he was offered a highly paid job but he declined the offer and chose to devote his life for the service of Islam under the guidance of The Promised Messiah. He was so humble and selfless that on many occasions he would be content to sit at the rear of the audience where usually people leave their shoes. Most often than not, he would be the first to say Asslam-O-Alaikum if you met him in the street. He would show kindness and respect even to his juniors. Whenever somebody requested to pray for him, he would readily agree. One of his greatest literary works is the English rendering of the Holy Quran. Scholars agree that this English translation is one of the best so far.

One salient feature of his life was his endeavours to attain the pleasure and proximity of God. He spent most of his time finding ways to purify his own self and pondering over the esoteric like a true Sufi (Muslim Mystic). He would pray and worship with a gusto. Hadhrat Maulvi Rajeki Sahib narrates that once Maulvi Sher Ali sahib and myself had to share a room in someone's house. Early morning when I woke up, I found Hadhrat Maulvi Sher Ali Sahib near my bed waiting on me with a jug of water in his hand. I felt embarrassed and said to Hadhrat Maulvi Sahib that he should not have taken the trouble of doing. He simply said that he thought it would be nice for you to find water ready for your ablution. When I returned back from the bathroom, I again found him waiting for me with another jug of water.

Mian Abdul Mannan Umar narrates that once he stayed over for a few days at Maulvi Sher Ali Sahib's place and had to share a room with Hadhrat Maulvi Sher Ali Sahib. It was chilly winter night. When I took to the bed, Hadhrat Maulvi Sahib put an extra blanket over me saying it is extremely cold tonight and you would need this. I felt that he needed the blanket more than me. I insisted that he should rather use the blanket but he would not agree. I waited till he fell asleep and I gently covered him with the blanket and returned to my bed and went to sleep. Later, when I woke up, I found myself covered with the same blanket again.

All these worthy and fine manners were the result of extreme obedience and strict adherence to the teachings of the Promised Messiah which he exemplified by his own practices, like offering his bed to the guests and himself sleeping on the ground without a bed, offering his own quilt to save others from the cold at night and suffer the discomforts himself instead. The Promised Messiah would often bring a glass of milk to the guest before their bedtime lest they are in the habit of drinking milk at night before going to bed.

HADHRAT HAFIZ MUEEN-UD -DIN

One day The Promised Messiah suggested to Hafiz Sahib to move down to Qadian and put up his residence there. Presuming the Promised to be a rich person, Hadhrat Hafiz Sahib assumed that the Promised Messiah meant to keep him in his employ. Hadhrat Hafiz Sahib pointed out to The Promised Messiah that there was not much he would able to do for him. The Promised Messiah explained to him that he did not expect much from him except to memorize Holy Quran and join him in his daily prayers. Consequently at times The Promised Messiah would lead the prayer and Hadhrat hafiz Sahib would follow him and vice versa. This saintly soul chose to live in the holy proximity of The Promised Messiah and would pray till late into the night so much so that his legs and feet would become swollen from over exertion. He lived in austerity and sometimes he would not be able to buy food for himself but still he would not let anybody know of his plight. The promised Messiah urged his followers to donate a part of their income for the propagation of Islam, Hadhrat Hafiz Sahib took it upon himself to donate money regularly for this purpose and would scribble down the amount in the notebook which he kept specifically for this end. Sometimes the Promised Messiah would tell him to keep back some money for his own self, but Hadhrat Hafiz Sahib would always say he had no use for that money and that it would be there if he spent it for the propagation of Islam.

Hadhrat Sheikh Yaqoob Ali Sahib Irfani narrates that one winter night it was raining and streets were all muddy. After Isha prayer I heard the footsteps of someone. I called out to know who he was. " It is me, Hafiz Mueen", back came the reply. "It rained heavily today and I know that a bitch has some

newborn puppies so I have brought some food for them", he added.

HADHRAT MUNSHI AROOREY KHAN SAHIB

Hadhrat Munshi Aroorey Khan Sahib, through the blessings of the Promised Messiah, rose from a mere draftsman to the rank of Revenue Collector and Administrator of his area. He willingly chose to live in a small room though he once held a high office in the state.

The Promised Messiah lauded his loyalty and sincerity as follows, " Munshi Sahib has got a heart that is worth its weight in Gold. His devotion and sincerity towards me is fathomless. He is a genuine seeker of the Truth. He is always on the look out to grab any opportunity to render some kind of service to me. I rightly presume that he holds great admiration for me that almost borders worship. Most probably nothing pleases him more than to serve me and sacrifice for me with every faculty of his being, rather more than his capacities. He is a simple and straightforward person with a brave heart. May Allah reward him amply for his efforts". *(Azala-e-Auhaam; Volume: 2,Page: 532)*

Hadhrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad, the 2nd Khalifa of the Promised Messiah narrates, "After the demise of the promised Messiah, I heard a knock on my door. I came out and found Munshi Aroorey Khan Sahib standing there. As soon as he saw me, he started crying uncontrollably. I became worried and asked him what the matter was. He replied that during the lifetime of The Promised Messiah he had a meagre salary and he could only look on with envy when richer devotees would bring valuable gifts to The Promised Messiah. He always wished if he could present a gold coin to the Promised Messiah, but he was never able to afford it. He started to save up money. Over the time, he was able to save enough money to buy a gold coin but then he thought to himself that one coin was not enough and he started to save some more money. He had not quite saved enough to buy another coin when The Promised Messiah passed away. Would you please pass this gold coin to the wife of Late Promised Messiah so as to make my conscience at peace".

HADHRAT SHAHZADAH ABDUL LATEEF SAHIB

He was one of those pious souls who are blessed with pure heart and who have the courage to lay down their lives for their faith without flinching. He was even offered many a temporal gains if only he renounced his newfound faith. But he stood steadfast and preferred to remain faithful to The Almighty rather than his life. It was the piety of The Promised Messiah, which led Hadhrat Shahzadeh Sahib to attain perpetual life in the Hereafter and the ultimate proximity to God Almighty. His supreme sacrifice would live forever in the history of Ahmadiyyat and the future generation would feel proud of his sacrifice.

Shahzada Abdul Lateef sahib was a scholar of very high standing and a practicing one. He was highly venerated and had a great respect in the society. He was quite hospitable and very often experienced dreams and visions, which would invariably come true. The king of Afghanistan held him in great esteem. He came to know about The Promised Messiah in Kabul through Pir Chunn Shah. He embarked on his journey with the intent of performing Hajj. When he reached Lahore, he changed his mind due to some draconian restrictions placed on performing hajj. From Lahore, he came to Qadian for his auspicious meeting with The Promised Messiah, trekking on foot from Batala to Qadian, a distance of about 20 Km. He met The Promised Messiah for the fist time after the Zohar prayer. He would accompany The Promised Messiah in his daily promenade. He was soon enamoured by the persona and the saintliness of The Promised Messiah. Soon the intense fire of his spiritual leader started to consume his heart. One of his students, Hadhrat Buzurg Sahib remembers that when Shahzadeh Sahib was in the audience with The Promised Messiah, a strange change would descend on him. Occasionally he would massage the promised Messiah's feet out of his love and respect for him.

The following two incidents describe amply his love and respect of The Promised Messiah.

Hadhrat Sahibzadeh Sahib always accompanied The Promised Messiah on his daily walk. On his return from the walk, he would linger on a considerable time to dust off his clothes. When once asked about

this delay, he replied, he waits to make sure that he dusts off his clothes after The Promised Messiah had done so thus not to show disrespect to him.

Once when The Promised Messiah was walking back from his daily walk, Hadhrat Sahibzadeh Sahib turned to one of his company and said just now a hourie (a nymph from paradise) approached me and urged me to look at her but I said I am in the company of The Promised Messiah and I declined her offer.

After staying in the company of The Promised Messiah Sahibzadeh Sahib decided to return back home. The Promised Messiah, on his departure, along with some of his companions accompanied Shahzadeh Sahib to a considerable distance. When departing, he threw himself onto the feet of The Promised Messiah and holding them with his both hands, beseeched him to pray for him. The Promised Messiah lifted him with great affection and kindness and consoled him with words of solace.

On his return to Syed Gah (the town of his abode) he was martyred. Despite repeated warnings, admonitions and threats of dire consequences unless he renounced his newfound faith and disown The Promised Messiah, but Sahibzadeh sahib's rock-strong faith never succumbed to their temptations and threats and he remained steadfast thus showed unparalleled courage displayed only by Muslims of earlier days.

The Promised Messiah in one of his of Persian poems lauded his loyalty and sincerity by saying, behold this pure soul who sacrificed his life for his belief and remained loyal till his last breath. He now lies buried under the stones. That courageous and godly person proved his mettle and gave up his dear life for the sake of his beloved God and his faith. *(Durr-e-Sameen; Persian section)*

The Promised Messiah adds, "Martyrdom of this kind is unprecedented in the last 1300 years. It is not easy to sacrifice even if you are struggling to make both ends meet but to give up you life when you have wealth, respect, high station in the society and have every conceivable worldly comfort at one's feet. If only he would have consented to the wishes of the Emir, he could have regained his esteem and position in the society. But he spurned all the temporal offers and risked his family's wellbeing and his faith never wavered. In fact, he displayed such an unwavering faith in his beliefs that should be emulated by all the Ahmadi Muslims. I advise all Ahmadi Muslims to read this book (Tadhkira-Tu-Shahada-Tain) over and over again and ponder over it and pray that one should reach this state in his faith. The Martyrdom of Shahzadeh Sahib is an ideal example of steadfastness and perseverance in the face of all persecutions. How he gave preference to his beliefs and faith even over his family and worldly status. For others he may be dead but he lives in the eyes of God .The comforts and the status of this world could not weaken his faith.

One might think that he is no more and dead but believe you me he lives on forever through his sacrifice. Though he did not have much longer time to stay in my company but even in that short period of time he made enormous spiritual progress. Despite various temptations of higher ranks promised to him if only he would relinquish his faith, he never succumbed to these offers and kept his covenant to God Almighty in giving preference to the faith over everything else." *(Malfoozat; Vol: VI; Page: 255-256)*

It is a fact that God blessed the Promised Messiah with hundreds of such followers whose sole purpose of their lives was to seek pleasure and proximity of God. They were God-loving, meek and humble people and loved their fellow-beings and lived self-effacing lives. When these pious souls prostrated in their prayers their hearts would mellow and they would be overpowered by the fear of God and they would drench the places of worship with their tears. May that we transform our souls and may God infuse our souls with similar sense of sacrifice! . May that we would become eager to emulate their readiness to sacrifice their health and wealth in the way of God so that we may deserve to be the recipient of the blessings of prayers of The Promised Messiah. May The Almighty Allah cause our hearts to be laden with sweet fruits of pious deeds and purge our hearts and minds of any weakness and indolence May Allah instil in our hearts His magnificence to the extent that our souls may become one with Him. Amen.